

Remarks

The amendments to the claims are to improve their form and not for the purpose of better distinguishing from the prior art.

With respect, and contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Narisada et al does not anticipate the claimed subject matter.

New claim 23, replacing claim 1, specifies, among other things, a radio control receiver for operating a plurality of devices in a model in accordance with respective control data each on a respective one of a plurality of device channels included within a radio channel.

Narisada discloses a radio control receiver but not for operating a plurality of devices in accordance with received control data. The receivers shown in Figures 1 to 3 operate only one device, the door lock actuator, in accordance with received control data. In so far as there is a second device in the Figure 1 embodiment this, the buzzer, is not operated in accordance with received control data but merely as a result of a determination as to whether the correct ID code is received and the correct function code is received. There is only one function code: that for the lock actuator. There is no code on a respective channel for the buzzer and this does not perform the function defined by the lock actuator function code.

Claim 23 additionally specifies a timer arranged to scan a plurality of radio channels. None of the embodiments disclosed in Narisada has such a timer. It is admitted that the presence of a receiver (Figures 1 and 2) implies the

presence of a tuner, but in no embodiment is there a suggestion that the tuner can scan a plurality of channels. Indeed, from what the applicant knows about the radio operated locks such as that described by Narisada, they each operate on a fixed frequency. It follows from that, and can be verified by reading the text, that Narisada does not disclose locking onto a radio channel if the processor indicates that transmissions on the radio channel are intended for the receiver. The tuner is already set to a fixed channel. Nor does the tuner in Narisada, as specified in claim 23, retune to another radio channel if the processor indicates that the transmissions are not intended for the receiver. It cannot do that, the channel is fixed in Narisada. The passages referred to by the Examiner contain no disclosure or implication that the tuner locks onto the radio channel if the transmissions are intended for the receiver, and retunes to another channel if they are not so intended.

To “scan a plurality of channels” would ordinarily be understood to mean automatically. In so far as scanning could be accomplished manually, it should be noted that the one tuner, in which the channel can be altered in Narisada, is the more or less conventional car-radio intended for in-car sound entertainment. Here the “radio control circuit” means a control circuit for the radio. In response to operation of selector 64, the car-radio is tuned to a suitable channel to receive transmissions from the transmitter 40. The transmission by transmitter 40 is merely converted to sound from the speaker 68. There is no processing of the ID code to see if the transmission is intended for the receiver.

Having dealt with anticipation, it is also noted that claim 23 is not obvious when considered against Narisada alone or in view of any of the other cited references.

The invention is intended to meet the problems encountered by radio control modellers, caused by there being a limited number of channels available for control of their models: for example, around 80 in the UK. Various mechanical systems are used to avoid use of the same channel by two separate transmitters. Flying a channel-indicative pennant is one system. Use of a peg-board is another. The receiver is usually contained inside the model. Commonly, the receiver is tuned by a replaceable crystal, different radio channels being selected by different crystals. If a modeller finds that the channel to which the receiver of his model is set is already in use, s/he can either wait until the channel becomes available, or change the crystal in the receiver to select a channel which is not in use. The latter is often a cumbersome task involving partial dismantling of the model.

None of this is addressed by Narisada. The reference is concerned with a keyless entry system. In such systems, the channel is preset and cannot be altered in order to avoid repeated use of the same channel. Indeed, plural use is permissible, transmissions on the same channel being distinguished by their ID code. In the invention, reception by plural receivers on the same channel is not distinguished but avoided. This difference is significant because in the keyless entry system described by Narisada, the transmitter button is pressed and the command signal illustrated in Figure 2 is sent, once. Even if the command signal were repeated whilst the button remained pressed (there is no disclosure of that) the signal would cease when the

button was released, say, when the lock operated. This is in contrast to the model-application claimed, where the transmitter is switched on and continuously transmits control data in repeated frames, representing the current state (e.g. position) of an input device (e.g. joystick) from frame to frame. In the keyless entry system the change of interference due to simultaneous transmissions on the same channel is low and the effect is inconsequential. In the radio control model case the consequence of interference caused by simultaneous transmissions on the same channel is catastrophic.

Narisada teaches to distinguish command signals on the same channel by use of an ID signal. This does not relate to model radio control where signals on the same channel, being continuous, must be avoided. Any suggestion, for example, for distinguishing two signals on the same R/C channel by including an ID as taught by Narisada, would not work. The signals would interfere and the models would crash.

In addition to it not being obvious to apply Narisada to the model radio control environment of the invention, none of the remaining references cited, but not applied by the Examiner, teaches the features missing from Narisada as explained above in relation to anticipation.

Regarding claim 2, the passage referred to by the Examiner (column 3, lines 23 to 43) does not make reference to “periodically”. The process is performed once.

Regarding claim 3, the passage referred to by the Examiner (column 3, lines 40 to 52) does not refer to fail safe information. Only one function code is transmitted in Narisada, and that once.

Regarding claim 4, if by any stretch of language the command signal illustrated in Figure 2 of Narisada is a “time frame”, it is not periodically repeated.

Regarding claim 8, the transmitter pertaining to the passage referred to by the Examiner (column 4, line 36 to column 5, line 54) is the transmitter 40. This is described in column 3, line 63 to column 4, line 6. The transmitter 40 has door lock/unlock buttons. Pressing one of these selects which of two function codes is transmitted. There is no input means disclosed for setting (ID) codes which, when processed with a corresponding unique code, indicate that transmissions are intended for the receiver. There is no means disclosed for selecting such (ID) codes. Only the function code can be selected.

Regarding claim 9, the passage referred to by the Examiner (column 3, lines 23 to 43) makes no mention of periodic transmission.

Regarding claim 10, the passage referred to by the Examiner (column 3, lines 40 to 62) makes no mention of transmitting fail safe information.

Regarding claim 11, if the single transmission of the command signal of Figure 2 in Narisada can by any stretch of language be called a time frame it is not repeated periodically.

Regarding claim 16, the passage, column 5, lines 1 to 64, refers to the in-car-entertainment sound radio receiver 60 of Figure 3 or 70 of Figure 4, not a radio control receiver.

Regarding claim 17, the receiver described at column 3, lines 1 to 14, produces a signal via a buzzer. The receiver described in column 3, lines 15 to 62, produces a change in potential of an output terminal 38. Neither is a radio signal.

Regarding claim 20, the radio receivers described in the passage the Examiner refers to (column 4, line 30 to column 5, line 54) are in-car-entertainment sound radios, not radio control receivers.

Based upon the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited references and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "My Epstein".

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